Appl. No. 10/004,131
Amdt. sent November 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2005

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 5.   (Canceled)

1   6.   (Currently amended): A storage system comprising:

2   a set of plural disk drive units;

3   a plurality of <u>disk array</u> controllers coupled to at least one computer via a

4 network; and

5   a <u>first</u> connection unit ~~connected~~ <u>coupled</u> between said ~~of~~ set of plural disk drive

6 units and said ~~plurality of~~ <u>disk array</u> controllers, said <u>first</u> connection unit configured such that

7 any of said <u>disk array</u> controllers can communicate with any of said disk drive units[[,]]<u>;</u>

8   ~~wherein each of said plurality of controllers comprises:~~

9   ~~a first circuit in data communication with at least one computer; and~~

10   ~~a second circuit in data communication with said disk drive units via said~~

11 ~~connection unit,~~

12   ~~wherein one of said plurality of controllers is a disk controller comprising a first~~

13 ~~circuit accepting access from a computer through a block I/O interface, and another one of said~~

14 ~~plurality of controllers is~~ a <u>plurality of</u> file server<u>s each</u> comprising a first circuit accepting

15 access from a computer through a file I/O interface[[,]]<u>; and</u>

16   <u>a second connection unit coupled between said set of plural disk drive units and</u>

17 <u>said file serves, said second connection unit configured such that any of said file servers can</u>

18 <u>communicate with any of said disk drive units.</u>

19   ~~wherein some of said plural disk drive units holds identification information~~

20 ~~identifying at least one of said plurality of controllers, and each of said plurality of controllers~~

21 ~~determines which of said plural disk drive units is accessible based on the identification~~

22 ~~information held in each of said plural disk drive units.~~

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7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein a
2 second circuit of each of said ~~plurality of~~ disk array controllers is a fibre channel controller.

9 and 10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Previously presented): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein
2 some of said plural disk drive units holds said identification information in a specific storage
3 area in the disk drive unit.

1 12. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 11 wherein
2 each of said ~~plurality of~~ disk array controllers searches identification information in the specific
3 storage area in some of said plural disk drive units, and determines which of said plural disk
4 drive units is accessible based on the detected identification information.

1 13. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 12 further
2 comprising a disk pool management unit coupled to said plural disk drive units and a
3 management console, wherein said disk pool management unit stores identification information
4 identifying at least one of said ~~plurality of~~ disk array controllers into the specific storage area in
5 some of said plural disk drive units based on an input from said management console.

14. (Canceled)

1 15. (Currently amended): A storage system according to claim 12 wherein
2 each of said ~~plurality of~~ disk array controllers performs the determination during system
3 initialization.

16. (Canceled)

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1   17.   (New): A storage system according to claim 6 wherein one of said disk

2   array controllers comprises a first circuit accepting access from a computer through a block I/O

3   interface.